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Chairman
4th District, Oklahoma

*House Meets at 12:30 p.m. for Morning Hour and
2:00 p.m. for Legislative Business
(No Votes Before 6:00 p.m.)*

Anticipated Floor Action:

H.Con.Res. 221—Reauthorizing the Printing of Certain Publications

**H.Con.Res. 244—Permitting the Use of the Capitol Rotunda to
Commemorate Victims of the Holocaust**

H.Res. 407—Permitting Official Photographs of the House While in Session

**H.R. 2130—Hillory J. Farias Date-Rape Prevention Drug Act (Considering
Senate Amendments)**

S. 1733—Electronic Benefit Transfer Interoperability and Portability Act

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Bills Considered Under Suspension of the Rules

Floor Situation: The House will consider the following five bills under suspension of the rules as its first order of business today. Each is debatable for 40 minutes, may not be amended, and requires a two-thirds majority vote for passage.

H.Con.Res. 221, as amended by the Senate, authorizes the Joint Committee on Printing (JCP) to reprint its customary number of copies available to the public of certain publications such as the pocket Constitution and “Our American Government.” In addition, it allows a certain number of additional copies to be printed for agencies within the Legislative Branch. The House passed H.Con.Res. 221 by voice vote on November 9, 1999. The Senate amended and passed the measure by unanimous consent on November 19. The resolution was introduced by Mr. Thomas and was not considered by a House committee.

H.Con.Res. 244 authorizes the use of the Capitol Rotunda on May 4, 2000, for a ceremony that is part of the Days of Remembrance Commemoration to honor victims of the Holocaust. The physical preparations for the ceremony must be carried out in accordance with the plans of the Architect of the Capitol. The resolution was introduced by Mr. Thomas and was not considered by a House committee.

H.Res. 407 authorizes official photographs of the 106th Congress to be taken when the House is in session at a time designated by the Speaker of the House. Payment for the costs associated with taking and distributing the pictures will be taken from the appropriate House of Representatives accounts. The bill was introduced by Mr. Thomas and was not considered by a House committee.

H.R. 2130—Hillory J. Farias Date-Rape Prevention Drug Act, as amended by the Senate, enhances law enforcement efforts to control the distribution and abuse of certain “date-rape” drugs. Specifically, the bill amends the 1970 Controlled Substances Act (*P.L. 91-513*) to list (1) Gamma Hydroxybutyric Acid (GHB), also known as *ecstasy*, (a central nervous system depressant) as a Schedule I drug, the DEA’s most regulated drug category; and (2) Gamma Butyrolactone (GBL, the chemical precursor to GHB) as a List I chemical, the DEA’s most regulated chemical category.

The bill also requires the Department of Health and Human Services Secretary to develop and implement a national education campaign to inform young people, law enforcement personnel, educators, school nurses, rape victim counselors, and hospital emergency room personnel on (1) the dangers of date-rape drugs; (2) the criminal penalties for abusing and selling date-rape drugs; (3) recognizing the symptoms of date-rape drug ingestion (including symptoms of sexual assault); and (4) how to help an affected individual. In addition, the secretary must establish an advisory committee to make recommendations to the secretary on the plan. Finally, the measure directs the secretary to submit to Congress annual estimates on the number of cases of date-rape drug abuse.

CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 2130 will cost less than \$500,000 in FY 2000 and about \$7 million over the FY 2001-2004 period, subject to the availability of appropriated funds. Because the bill could affect direct spending and receipts, pay-as-you-go procedures apply. The bill originally passed the House by a vote of 423-1 on October 12, 1999. The bill was further amended in the Senate by substituting the text of S. 1561 by unanimous consent on November 19, 1999.

S. 1733—Electronic Benefit Transfer Interoperability and Portability Act amends the 1977 Food Stamp Act (*P.L. 95-113*) to require the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to set specific standards for states with electronic benefit transfer (EBT) systems so that food stamp participants may redeem their benefits in neighboring states. Under the state food coupon system, participants may redeem benefits in any retail food store. States want to apply this same principle to the EBT system of delivery of food assistance benefits.

The Food Stamp Act already requires that all states issue food stamp benefits under an EBT system by 2002. S. 1733 requires the USDA, within seven months of enactment, to adopt a uniform national standard for interoperability and portability so that state-issued EBT cards may be used in other states. The standards must be based on the standards used by a majority of states, thereby giving the USDA flexibility in writing the standards. The bill also establishes exemptions for states if they have entered into EBT contracts using other standards, as well as waivers for states that operate “smart card” food stamp systems, instead of debit card systems as most states use. In addition, S. 1733 requires the USDA to pay 100 percent of the costs of adopting these standards, up to a maximum of \$500,000 annually. An official CBO cost estimate was unavailable at press time. The Senate passed the bill by unanimous consent on November 19, 1999. The House Agriculture Committee did not consider this bill.

Additional Information: See *Legislative Digest*, Vol. XXIX, #1, January 28, 2000.

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